Population Issues

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FOREWORD

This is the fourth edition of the **Population Issues Briefing Kit.** The kit examines ten key issues in the field of population and development. We hope that you will find it both useful and informative.

As the 1994 International Conference on Population and Deveoplment nears, regional preparatory conferences throughout the world are setting the agenda for a concerted approach to population issues. Worldwide awareness of our common future will help set the pace for global initiatives.

Nafis Sadik
Executive Director

July 1993

Population Growth: The Changing Landscape

World population, which will reach 5.57 billion in mid-1993 and 6.2 billion by the year 2000 with 3 billion living in cities, is growing faster than ever before: three people every second, more than 250,000 every day. At the beginning of the decade the annual addition was 93 million; by the end it will approach 100 million. At this rate the world will have almost a billion more people (roughly the population of China) by the year 2001. Approximately ninety-five per cent of this population growth is occurring in the developing countries.

Average fertility rate in developing countries has decreased: from 6.0 children per woman in the early 1960s to 3.6 today. Population growth rates in developing countries have also declined: from more than 2.5 per cent a year in the early 1960s to just over 2.0 per cent today. However, the absolute numbers being added continue to increase.

These increases will move forward like a wave into the next century; close to 34 per cent of the developing world population will be under age 15 by the year 2000.

The United Nations long-term projections of world population released in early 1992 have been revised upward. The "medium variant" or most likely projection for 2100 is now 11.2 billion. This is 1.0 billion or 10 per cent larger than that predicted in the 1982 long-range projection.

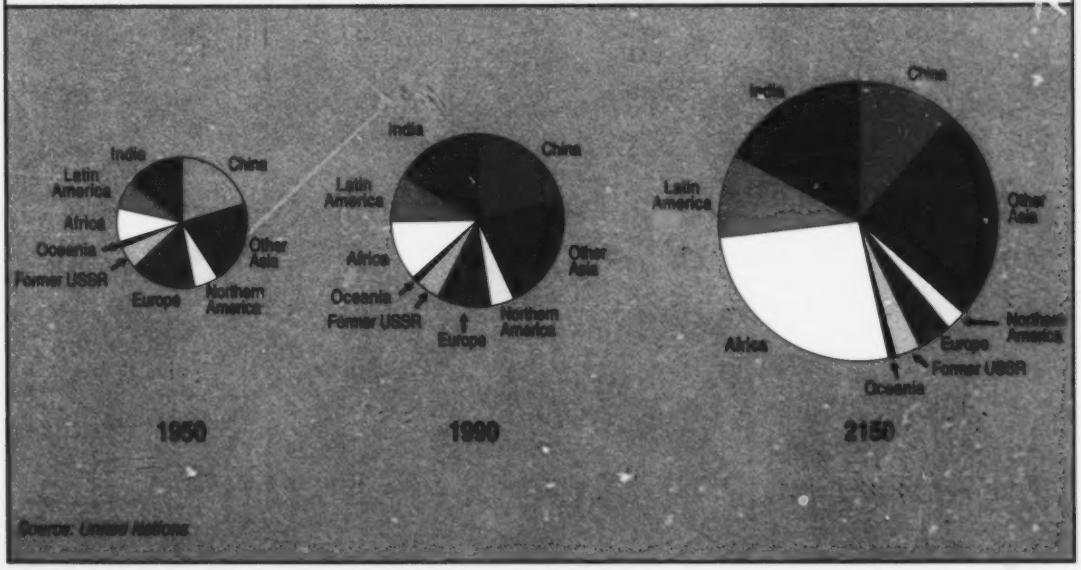
The time it takes to add a billion people has become shorter and shorter. It took a century (1830-1930) to go from 1 billion to 2 billion people, 30 years (1930-1960) for the third billion, 15 years (1960-1975) for the fourth, and 12 years to grow from 4 billion to 5 billion. Adding the next billion will take only about 10years.

Growth is not expected to stop altogether till the year 2200, when world population may stabilize at approximately 11.6 billion — over twice its present level. But if fertility declines more slowly, following the less optimistic "high variant" projection, the world might reach that level before the middle of the next century.

A Changing Balance

The population of developing countries has more than doubled in 35 years, increasing from 1.7

Distribution of World Population, Medium-Fertility Extension, 1950, 1990 and 2150



billion in 1950 to 4.3 billion in 1993. By 2025, it will grow to over 7 billion — out of an expected world total of 8.47 billion.

By contrast, the developed countries (Europe, including the former Soviet Union, North America and Japan) have increased from 832 million in 1950 to 1.2 billion in 1993 — with 1.40 billion expected in the year 2025. By 2020-2025, the industrialized countries will account for only 3 per cent of the annual population increase and will comprise one fifth of the world's population.

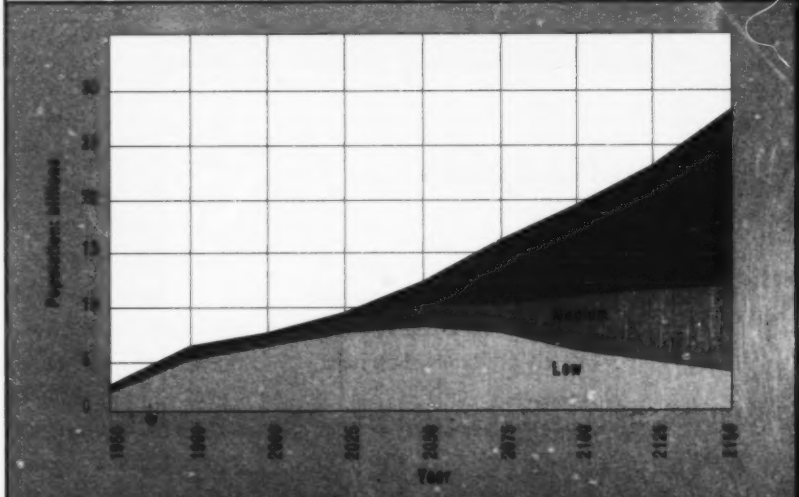
Continued rapid growth in developing countries has brought human numbers into collision with the resources required to sustain them and is among the many human-made threats to the global environment. Increasing numbers add to demands on land, air and water resources, making it more difficult to support growing numbers of people.

Increasing numbers and declining resources have contributed to increasing migration from rural to urban areas. By the year 2000 over 37 per cent of Africa and Asia (excluding Japan) and 76 per cent of Latin America will be urbanized.

Throughout the developing world these trends have spurred population policies aimed at balancing rural and urban populations and slowing rapid population growth. Increasingly, they are linked to economic and social development programmes, a linkage critical for the success of both.

The world will have almost a billion more people by the year 2001.

Alternative futures: population projections to 2150



United Nations, low, medium and high populations projections. By 2050 there is a difference of 4 billion between high and low projections – about the size of world population in 1975.

Source: United Nations Population Division

Developing Countries: In Search of Balance

As much as ninety-seven per cent of global population growth is projected to take place in Africa, Asia and Latin America between now and the year 2050 — Africa's population will increase almost 4 times and India's will double — the countries least able to absorb growing numbers of people.

Africa's population is growing at 2.9 per cent annually, the fastest ever for an entire region. Eastern and western Africa are growing at 3.1 per cent. Next to Africa, western Asia (broadly the Arab states) with a 2.7 per cent growth rate, and southern Asia (the Indian sub-continent), with 2.2, have the highest rates in the world. Asia overall is growing at 1.8 per cent and Latin America at 1.8 per cent.

Europe has an average growth rate of 0.3 per cent a year. The former Soviet Union's growth rate is 0.5 per cent. North America's rate is 1.1 percent.

Asia, with a current population of 3.2 billion, is expected to have 4.9 billion in 2025; Africa with 682 million in 1992, is expected to grow to 1.58 billion; Latin America, with 457 million, will have 701 million; Europe, with 512 million, is expected to reach 541 million; the former Soviet Union, with 285 million, will increase to 344 million; and North America, with 283 million, will grow to 361 million.

Demographic trends by region:

Latin America: Over the past 40 years, the continent has made notable progress in increasing life expectancy, from 51 years for a child born in the 1950s to approximately 68 for children born today.

Latin America and the Caribbean have the largest portion of urban dwellers (73 per cent) in the developing world. If current trends continue, Mexico City will have 25.6 million inhabitants and Sao Paulo 22.1 million by the year 2000; they will be the largest cities in the world.

Countries with effective family planning programmes in the region include Colombia, which through its PROFAMILIA programme has lowered the population growth rate from 3 per cent in the 1960s to a rate approaching 1.7, and Mexico, which has lowered its growth rate from 3.2 in 1970 to 2.1 through family planning. These and other countries such as Costa Rica and Cuba have extensive mother and child health care programmes which include family planning services.

Asia and the Pacific: Besides having 59 per cent of the world's people, Asia presently has five of the world's ten most populous cities and will have far more in the year 2000. The continent led the way in family planning; by 1974, 17 countries had population policies and virtually all promoted family planning. Despite Asia's moderate growth rate, its numbers are still increasing rapidly because of the large population base; over 60 per cent of the world's population increase takes place there.

There is a growing division between the "low-growth" countries of east Asia and the "high-growth" countries of south Asia. China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand all have highly literate populations, effective family planning programmes and low population growth rates. On the other hand, rapid population growth in Pakistan, Bangladesh and the populous northern states of India is partly the result of women's low status, low general literacy and limited access to family planning. Sri Lanka is the exception, with high literacy and equal access to education for girls, and a highly effective family planning programme.

Arab States: Practically all the Arab States have high population growth rates, averaging 3 per cent, sufficient to double the population in a little over 20 years. High fertility stems from cultural and social factors, such as early marriage, widespread lack of contraception and the preference for large families. It is not uncommon to have six to eight children per family.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Before the mid-1970s only three African States had population policies; many had not even carried out censuses. Large

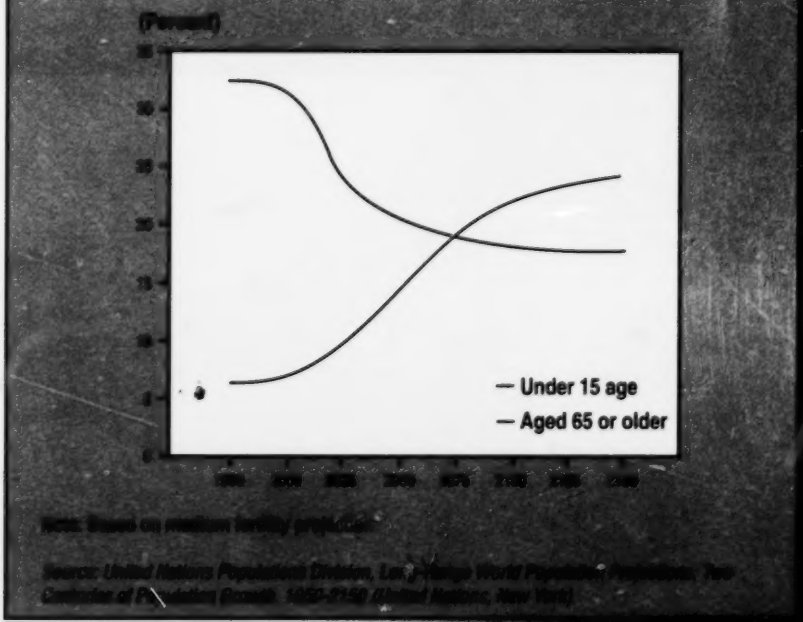
families were (and still are) the norm. In 1992, the number of children in 40 sub-Saharan African countries averaged between 5.8 and 8.3 per woman. But women in most African countries want smaller families than their mothers, and family planning is expanding; fourty-two governments now provide direct support for family planning services and an additional six provide indirect support. A few, like Mauritius and Zimbabwe, have already achieved high rates of contraceptive use and in others, such as Botswana, Ghana and Kenya, birth rates are turning downwards.

Continued rapid growth in developing countries has brought human numbers into collision with the resources to sustain them.

Europe: Fertility in Europe has declined since 1965 from somewhat above the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman to 1.7, a point well below replacement. Europe's numbers will decline from 512 million in 1992 to 486 million by 2050.

A similar pattern is found in **Japan**, which lowered its population growth rate from 1.43 per cent to 0.43 per cent and more than doubled the proportion of older people between 1950 and 1990. From 5 per cent in 1950, over-65s are now 12 per cent of the population. By 2025 the proportion of over-65s will be 24 per cent.

Changing Age Structure of World Population, 1990-2150



Population Programmes: Needs For The Year 2000

To keep population growth to the United Nations medium or "most likely" projection, programme funding will have to double by the end of the century, according to UNFPA research.

UNFPA's estimate is that current annual levels of $4.5 billion from all sources would have to reach $9 billion by the year 2000. Population assistance to developing countries would have to increase from the present total of $958 million a year to as much as $4.5 billion in constant 1985 $ US dollar.

Developing countries, which now spend $3.5 billion, would have to contribute $4.5 billion.

UNFPA estimates that this amount is necessary to extend family planning services in developing countries to 567 million couples (59 per cent of women of reproductive age), compared with 381 million (51 per cent) today. To achieve this apparently modest increase will require extending modern family planning services to a total of 1.5 billion people; about 2 billion people will start to use family planning or move to safer methods during the decade.

In 1991 population assistance was only 1.33 per cent of the total official development assistance (ODA).

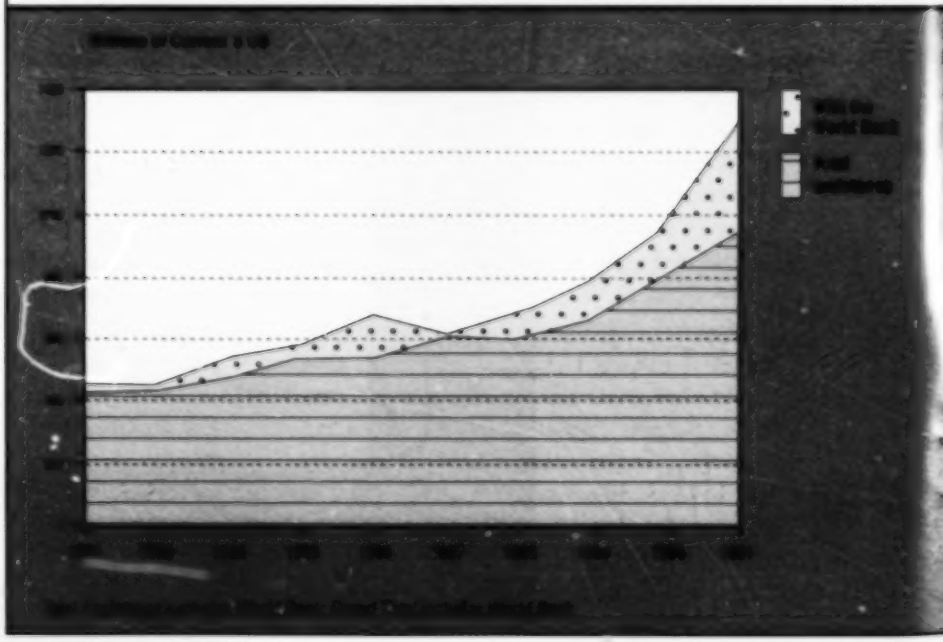
A handful of industrialized countries provide the bulk of population assistance, as they do for development aid overall. The U.S. continues to be the largest single donor, providing approximately $352 million in 1991. Germany is the next largest donor with commitments of about $76 million during this period. Other major donors include Japan, Norway, The United Kingdom, Sweden and the Netherlands. International population assistance from all sources, including the World Bank, amounted to approximately $1.306 billion in 1991.

By ensuring that total official development assistance doubles between now and the year 2000, and that the proportion of ODA devoted to population increases from about 1 per cent today to 4 per cent by the end of the decade, the population assistance target could be achieved.

The precedents for both these increases already exist. ODA doubled between 1978 and 1988, and Norway already contributes four to five per cent of development funds to population and family planning activities.

In addition, the World Bank and other lending institutions would be encouraged to increase contributions to $500 million by the year 2000. Budget allocations for population in fiscal year 1991 totalled $354 million.

Total commitments for international populatio



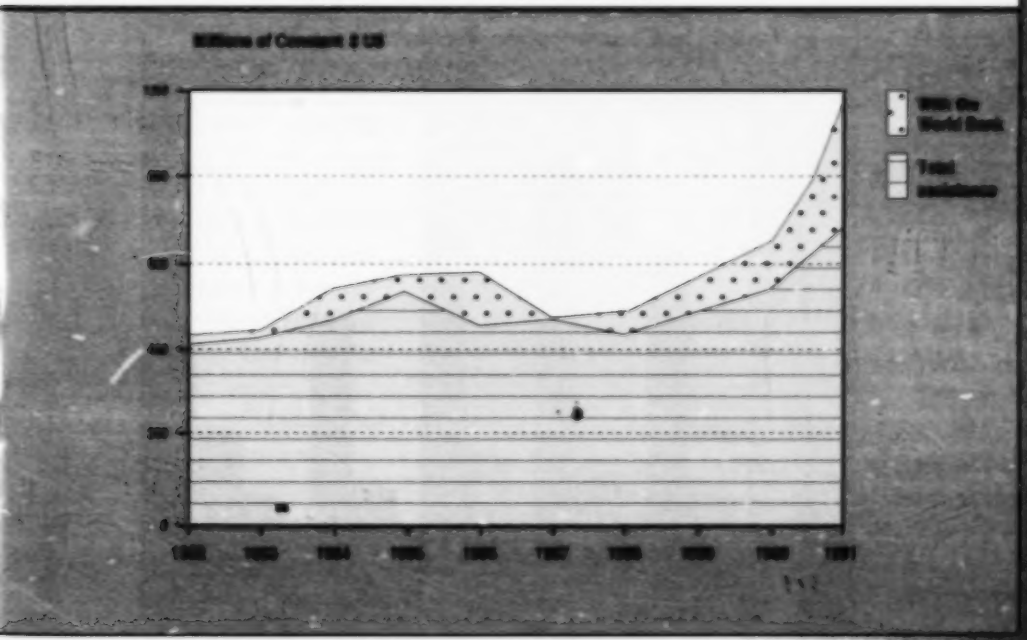
The resources of UNFPA will also have to increase substantially. During the past few years, income has remained constant in real terms, every major country and over 100 countries overall, contributed to UNFPA in 1992.

The Fund hopes to increase revenues from all sources including multibilateral from $227 million in 1991 to $1 billion by the year 2000. There is no shortage of demand: UNFPA offices hold proposals for projects for several hundred million dollars which are waiting to be funded today.

In 1992, 141 countries received international population assistance totaling $732 million. Of this amount, Asia and the Pacific received 28 per cent or $206 million; sub-Saharan Africa 28 per cent or $207 million; Latin America 12 per cent or $86 million; the Middle East and North Africa 8 per cent or $58 million; Europe 1 per cent or $6.0 million. Interregional projects accounted 23 per cent or $169 million.

UNFPA estimates that population programme funding will have to double by the end of the century.

assistance, 1982 - 1991 (Current and Constant $US)



Family Planning: A Human Right

Family planning is the conscious effort to determine the number and spacing of births. The right of individuals and couples "freely and responsibly to decide the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so" was first recognized as a human right in 1968, and over the past two decades has attained almost universal acceptance. It was endorsed by the World Population Conference held in Bucharest in 1974 and by the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984, which reaffirmed "the right to choice of family size without coercion, and the right to choice of method, which should include all medically-approved and appropriate methods of family planning."

Delegates at the 79-country International Forum on Population in the 21st Century held in Amsterdam in November 1989 called for stronger family planning and maternal and child health services in both the public and private sectors. Since the Amsterdam Declaration was adopted in 1989, support for greater emphasis on population activities has been given by UNFPA's Governing Council, ECOSOC and the General Assembly of the United Nations; by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; and by the World Summit for Children. The principles of the Amsterdam Declaration are also reflected in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

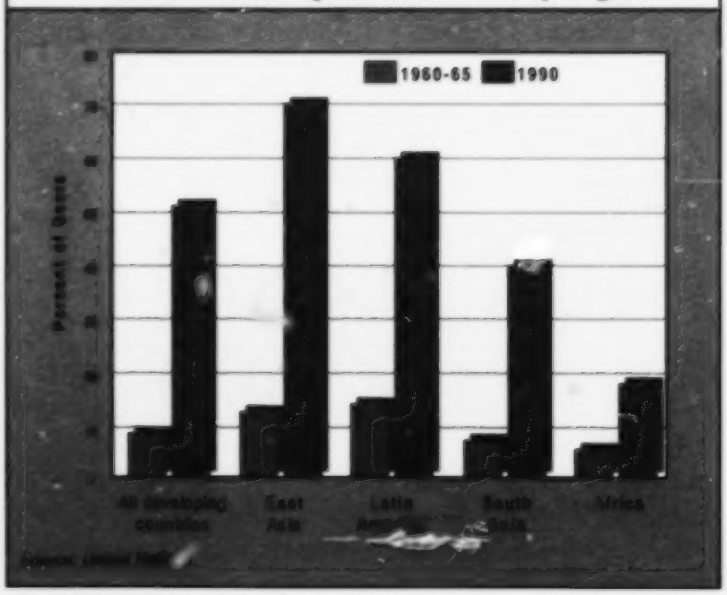
Family planning makes a positive contribution to the health of both mothers and children and to lower infant and maternal death rates. Conversely, improved maternal and infant health enhances and helps create the conditions for effective family planning programmes; thus family planning has its maximum impact on health when it is made available as an integral part of maternal and child health services.

Many millions of couples and individuals throughout the world, however, still do not have access to family planning, either because they lack information, or because an appropriate range of methods and follow-up services is not available.

The use of modern family planning techniques in developing countries has grown from less than 10 per cent of married couples in the 1960s to 45 per cent in 1983, and to 51 per cent today. However, it has been estimated that births would be fewer by about a quarter in Africa and about a third in Asia and Latin America if women were able to have only the number of children that they desired.

Women who lack family planning, or have encountered failure with it, have only two options — an unplanned pregnancy or abortion. The high number of women resorting to abortion testifies to the failure of family planning services to keep pace with the demand. The toll is great — complications from

Trends in Contraceptive Prevalence, by Region



abortion alone kill an estimated 200,000 women per year. The best way to prevent abortion is to make family planning accessible to all women and men.

The success of family planning programmes depends on decisions made by billions of individual women and men.

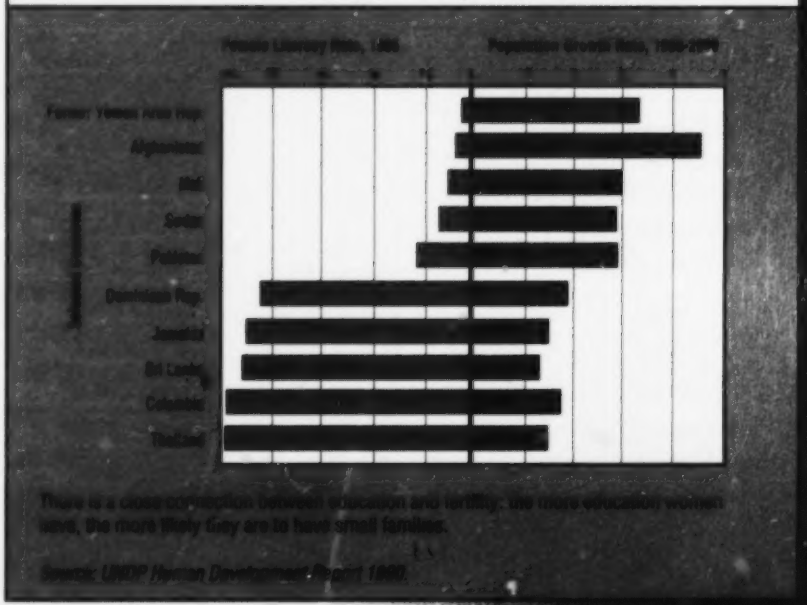
Countries which have information programmes to make entire populations aware of the benefits of family planning, and services to back them up, have registered significant reductions in fertility rates. This is particularly notable in countries with networks of community health workers and clinics, paying close attention to primary health care and preventive medicine as well as to family planning.

However, family planning is not just a matter of providing contraceptive services. The ability to take advantage of family planning is part of an environment in which everyone has opportunities and choices.

The process of building these opportunities begins at birth. How parents greet the birth of a new child; whether a girl is as welcome as a boy; whether girls and boys are reared with equal chances of health and education; and whether the parents choose to plan the birth of a subsequent child affect the opportunities and aspirations of the whole family. These factors will have a bearing on how future generations perceive opportunities for choice in their own family life. As children grow to adulthood and parents become grandparents, a whole society's values change.

Millions of couples and individuals throughout the world still do not have access to family planning.

Women's Literacy and Population Growth



There is a close connection between education and fertility: the more education women have, the more likely they are to have small families.

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 1992

Population Policy: Growing Support

A majority of developing countries now see population policy as a necessity to meet the challenge of high population growth, economic hardship and the deterioration of resources and the environment. Population policy varies from country to country and must always retain flexibility because the problems, and responses to them, depend on individual economic, social and cultural circumstances.

Population programmes have had a significant effect on the use of family planning, fertility levels and overall population increase.

Family planning is a major element in population policy, one of several components including demographic research and data collection; structure of the population; problems associated with youth and the elderly; distribution, migration and the explosion of mega-cities; the taking of censuses; and the strengthening of information, education and communication activities.

Strong family planning programmes have the strongest effect where social and economic development is the highest. According to Population Council studies, among countries with a high level of development, a change in official family planning programme effort from "very low" to "high" produces an estimated additional decline in total fertility of 2.3 births per woman. On the other hand, those countries classified as "least developed" showed no appreciable decline in fertility between 1950-55 and1985-90.

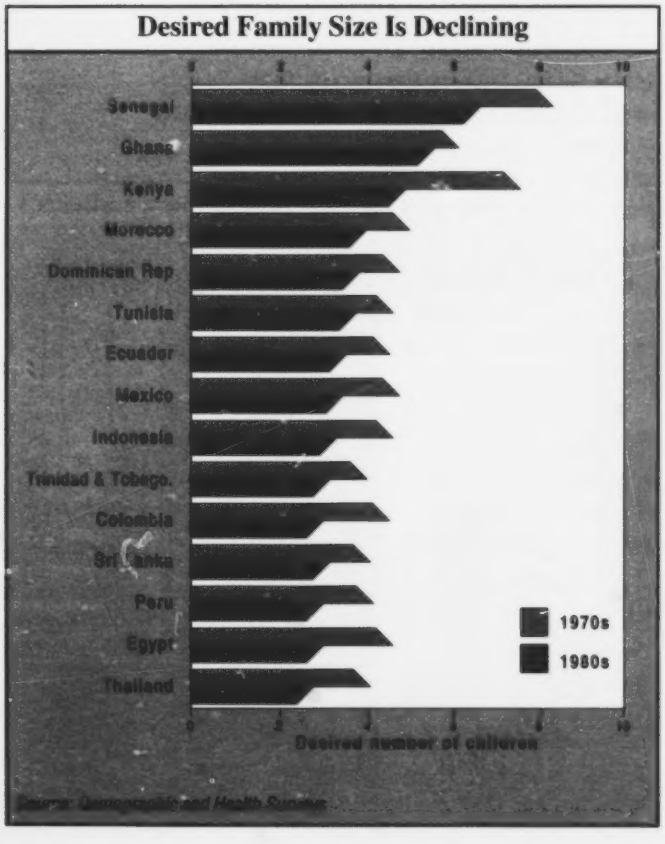
Today, there are 129 countries which provide direct support for family planning, and 17 more which provide indirect support, and only 4 countries discourage family planning. (The former Soviet Union has been counted as one country.)

Population programmes require much longer than economic and social development projects to show results; for this reason they require additional attention in the policy-making process to ensure that they are given the necessary priority.

Population policies and programmes succeed or fail according to the degree of support they muster from the political leadership; from government officials; from business and commercial interests; from religious, intellectual and community leaders; and from the people at large. Where support lacks energy or conviction among these groups, population programmes cannot succeed.

Given favourable attitudes, the next — and essential — stage is implementation.

Population policy has the most impact in a country with a national population council and a



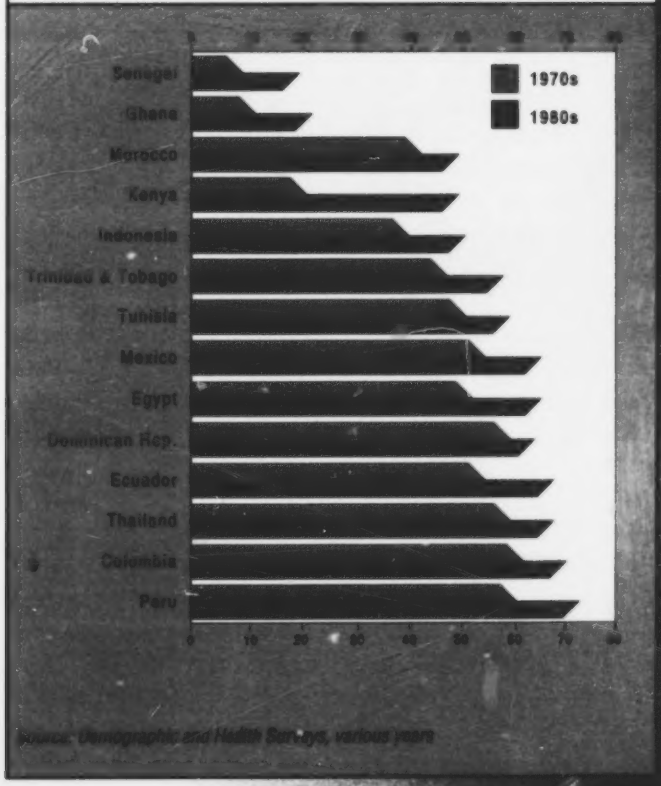
population planning unit, preferably within the national planning ministry; over 3/4 of countries surveyed now have population units in these planning bodies.

The national population council establishes desirable gaols in the areas of population distribution and migration, fertility, safe motherhood, child survival, and life expectancy. The population planning unit oversees the implementation process, working with line ministries in education, health and social services, with central and local planning units, with donors apd with national and local non-governmental organizations.

Over the past 20 years planners and officials have accepted the need to integrate population policy and development planning. Population programmes should be linked to the alleviation of poverty, improving health and education, pursuing environmental measures — and, specifically, to improving the living conditions of women. In all countries where women have benefitted from development, population programmes have made impressive strides.

Planners and officials have accepted the need to integrate population policy and development planning.

Percentage of Woman Wanting No More Children



Source: Demographic and Health Surveys, various years

Gender Equality: A Country's Best Investment

Gender plays a critical part in population and development planning, because male and female roles in society are at the core of social relations, economic structures and family composition.

Low status of women restricts their access to productive assets and social services, affecting their health and education, their working conditions and participation in public life.

Women in many countries are denied the right to own land, inherit property, establish credit, or rise in the professional and business worlds. In sub-Saharan Africa, where women produce up to 80 per cent of food grown for local consumption, only 8 per cent of these women hold titles to the land they work. Such constraints on women's economic autonomy might be written into law, based on custom and tradition, or result from male control over financial and administrative systems.

The key factor in breaking through these many layers of gender bias is education. In 1990, the illiteracy rate for women in developing countries stood at 46.3 per cent, compared to only 25.8 per cent for men. In Latin America, 20 per cent of women aged 25 or over remain illiterate, over 40 per cent in eastern and south-eastern Asia, and up to 70 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa and southern and western Asia. The strongest educational gains have been made in primary school enrolment, which is by now near universal in Latin America and much of Asia. Yet, secondary enrolment levels for girls remain low, ranging from 52 per cent in Latin America, to 26 per cent in Asia and 14 per cent in Africa.

Education brings general benefits through access to information and markets, and through more economic and political influence. In contrast to men, however, women also stand to gain more autonomy in the home, control over resources, and a larger say in family decisions. It is not surprising that surveys in defferent settings found that women with seven or more years of education tend to marry on average four years later and have 2-3 fewer children then women with no schooling.

One immediate benefit of equality in education would be the access to better employment opportunities for women and increased productivity. Economic policies suffer from the low value given to women's work, because much of it takes place in the non-wage economy. However, the value of unpaid labour provided by women has been estimated at $4 trillion annually. In subsistence economies, women usually cover between 40 to 100 per cent of a family's basic needs. In addition, growing numbers of women are employed in the formal sector.

Still, most development strategies emphasize the productivity of the male work force. Investments in technology, infrastructure and assets relevant to women receive low priority. In fact, gender blindness in development can worsen the situation of women.

Modernization strategies, for example, have often destroyed women's economic basis as traders, craftswomen and farmers, without altering the socio-cultural context which prevents them from pursuing other business opportunities.

Access to education and employment would also empower women to demand and exercise their fundamental rights, including the right to health and reproductive choice. Although womanhood is often equated with motherhood, societies have invested little in making procreation safe for women. Unwanted or high-risk pregnancies kill an estimated 1,370 women every day. Among public health indicators, the disparity between developed and developing countries is greatest for maternal mortality. In some countries, it constitutes the leading cause of death among women aged 15-45 years.

The marginal position of women is reflected in the lack of attention given to reproductive health care and family planning. In 1990, only 38 per cent of births in Africa and 49 per cent in Asia were supervised by trained health personnel; in some developing countries, the number is less than 20 per cent of deliveries.

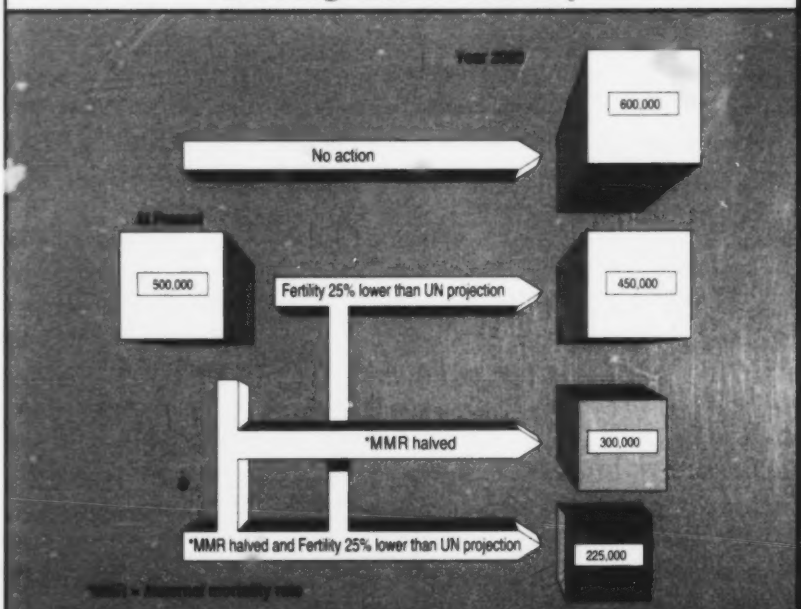
Access to family planning could prevent up to 40 per cent of maternal deaths by allowing women to avoid unwanted and high-risk pregnancies, meaning those that occur too early or too late in life, too often or too close together. The World Health Organization estimates unmet need for family planning at close to or in excess of 100 million women who would like to space or limit their births.

Three approaches are required to establish gender equality. Firstly, major policy interventions are needed to bring women's social status and economic opportunities on a par with men. Secondly, men's reproductive and familial roles need to be strengthened, thus enabling all individuals to make their full contribution in the domestic sphere. Finally, society at large must understand the social function of motherhood. Such collective responsibility for maternal well-being is advocated through the global Safe Motherhood Initiative which is co-sponsored by UNFPA.

Adressing gender issues from these three angles will help secure women's rights as individuals. It will also help communities and countries to reverse trends of economic decline and demographic instability.

Raising the status of women by improving their education, health and living and working conditions is essential for slower population growth.

Reducing Maternal Mortality



A combination of better health care and family planning for women is the most effective way to reduce maternal mortality.

Source: WHO Safe Motherhood Initiative

The Environment: Balancing People and Resources

Degradation of air, land and water resources — from ever-increasing numbers of people, ever-increasing demands for resources and ever-increasing pollution —is damaging complex ecosystems and reducing the quality of human life.

Population size and rates of growth are key elements in environmental change. At any level of development, increased populations increase energy use, resource consumption and environmental stress.

These linkages receive priority attention in Agenda 21 – the global action plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Agenda 21 urges all countries to improve their capacities to assess the environmental and developmental implications of their population growth rates and distribution patterns and to implement appropriate policies and programmes.

Only action to achieve a sustainable balance between human populations and their use of resources holds out the hope of reversing the trend.

The biggest single change may be the so-called "greenhouse effect" — a rise in the Earth's temperature caused by growing concentrations of gases in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide — which may bring about the most rapid climatic change in the history of civilization. There may be a rise in sea level, increases in floods and droughts, shifting of food production zones and ecological disruption as climate changes faster than species can adapt.

Energy consumption per capita in the industrialized world is ten times that of low and middle-income nations. A recent study found that the United States, the European Community and the former Soviet Union, in that order, are the largest net contributors of "greenhouse gases" to the atmosphere. The developing countries now account for only 45 per cent of the emission of those gases. But they are expected to see the demand for energy more than triple between 1985 and 2025.

Development itself is responsible for much of the environmental damage in developing countries. The fleet of motor traffic worldwide will increase by more than 2.5 per cent a year, a more rapid growth than the 1.7 per cent yearly increase of the human population. In 2025, if past trends of population increase and energy use continue, developing countries could double their emission of carbon dioxide and will account for more than half the global increase.

In the developing countries, poverty and rapid population growth increase pressure on available resources. To find food, fuel and shelter, communities are forced into unsustainable practices: burning and cutting down forests, over-using or misusing farmland, and polluting and exhausting water supplies.

The food needs of rapidly growing populations also threaten the air, the water and the soil on which survival depends. Clearing forest to increase farmland increases the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. Destruction of tropical forests eliminates thousands of animal and plant species found only in these woodlands, an irreplaceable reservoir of resources of incalculable present and future value. Each year between 16 to 20 million hectares of tropical forests and woodlands are lost, the higher figure over twice the size of Austria.

The increasing acreage of irrigated paddy-fields and the global herd of 1.3 billion cattle contribute to the 1 per cent annual increase in world methane concentration, a potent contributor to the "greenhouse effect."

Poor use of land — non-stop cultivation of worn-out land, over-grazing, excessive cutting of fuelwood, farming on steep soils — and poor water management mean that in the past 45 years 1.2 billion hectares, an area the size of China and India combined, has suffered moderate to extreme soil degradation — this represents 11 per cent of the Earth's vegetated surface. If present trends continue, the livelihoods of an estimated 1.2 billion people worldwide will be affected by deserti-

fication by the year 2000. Many will become "environmental refugees," or people unable to make a living from the land, further swelling congestion in the cities.

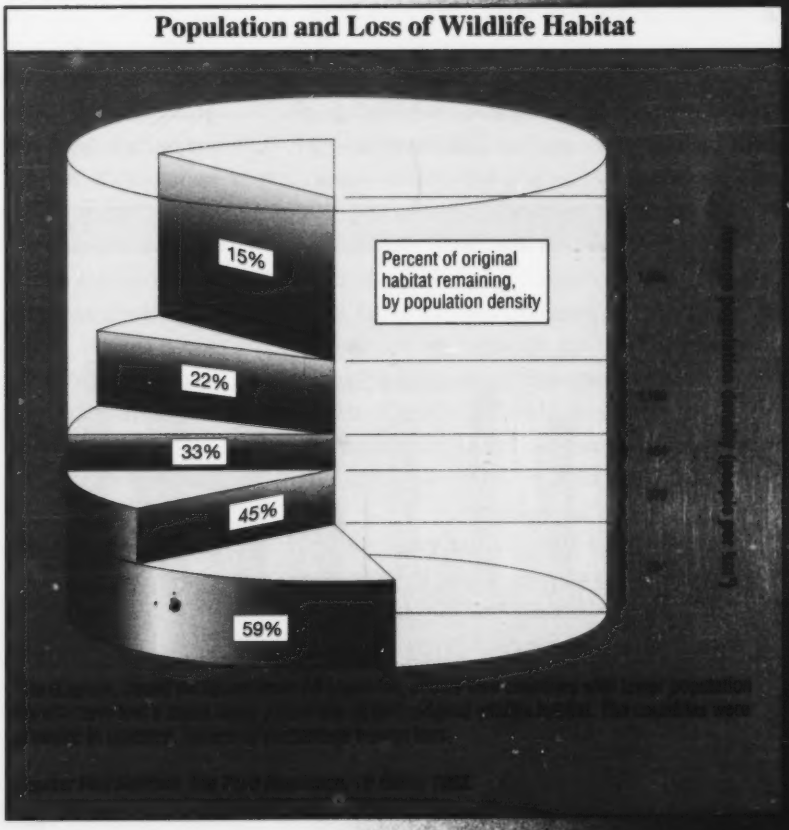
Two billion people in 80 countries live in areas of chronic water shortage. Nearly 1.5 billion people in developing countries are without safe drinking water.

Per capita food output is declining in 46 out of 95 developing countries. By the end of the century, at least 37 countries, most of them in Africa, will be unable to feed themselves from their own resources.

Population policies are central to the success of attempts to avert the environmental crisis, not only to slow rapid rates of growth but to balance distribution between rural and urban areas, and to contribute to policies of balanced resource use. In this effort, women must play a major part since they are largely the custodians of field, farm and forest in the rural developing world. Family planning is an essential aspect of programmes of sustainable development.

At any level of development, increased populations increase energy use, resource consumption and environmental stress.

Population and Loss of Wildlife Habitat



Millions on the Move: Migration and Urbanization

The world is steadily becoming more urban. During the 1990s, no less than 83 percent of the world's population increase is expected to take place in towns and cities - 81 million people every year, equivalent to around ten extra cities the size of Moscow, Delhi, Paris or Lagos. By the end of the century, over half the world's population will live in cities. Of the 20 largest cities in the year 2000, 17 will be in developing countries. Up to half the population in many large cities live in slums or squatter settlements, often without running water, toilets or electricity.

The largest proportion of urban dwellers in the developing world can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean, where urban population stands at 73 per cent. Africa's proportion is 33 per cent, Asia 32 per cent, Europe 74 percent and north America 76 per cent.

Urban populations in developing countries are growing at the rate of 3.7 per cent a year - three times faster than population in rural areas and four times faster than in industrialized countries. Some cities such as Dhaka and Dar es Salaam, are growing so rapidly that they will almost double their population in 10 years.

Migration from rural areas accounts for about 60 per cent of urban growth in the developing world. The forces driving this influx are better employment opportunities and the concentration of industry and commerce in urban centres. As cities strain to absorb newcomers, their boundaries creep outward, eating up farmland and forests. This encroachment destroys precious energy, food and water resources.

Demand for housing, infrastructure and social services grows with increasing numbers of people. Many cities cannot cope any longer. In Bombay, with a population of 11 million today, an estimated 3.9 million people live in squatter settlements. Yet, Bombay's population will grow to over 15 million by the year 2000. In Rio de Janeiro, over 3 million people already live on dangerous, eroded hillsides; an additional 2.5 million inhabitants will be added by the end of this decade. And in Cairo, with a population growing from 9 million to 12 million, thousands today are forced to set up homes in cemeteries known as the City of the Dead.

Ninety-four developing countries have made reversing or at least slowing the tide of rural to urban migration one of the top priorities of their population policies. These countries have tried to relieve pressure by creating alternative urban centres or by trying to resettle city dwellers. But high costs and the advantages of urban life have plagued those efforts.

Although internal migration makes up by far the lionshare of the total movement of people, international migration continues to rise as well. As many as 70 million people, mostly from developing countries, are working in other countries. Every year, over one million people emigrate permanently and close to that number seek asylum.

Aside from emergency situations, these migration flows arise from a combination of demographic and economic trends. Large increases in population in the past mean a high proportion of youth who are now seeking employment. Because of economic stagnation, domestic labour markets cannot always accommodate the new generation. Since these trends tend to concentrate in the cities, social tension, and thus political unrest, are bound to increase. At the international level, this situation is exacerbated through protectionism in trade and reduced development aid. As inequalities between the richer and poorer countries of the world continue to worsen, they will inevitably stimulate migration across borders in search for better living conditions.

Large-scale movements have a considerable impact on sending countries. The value of cash remittances from migrant workers in 1989 was $66 billion, second only to oil in its value in international trade, and more than international development assistance ($46 billion). But remittances may be a mixed blessing: they may not find their way

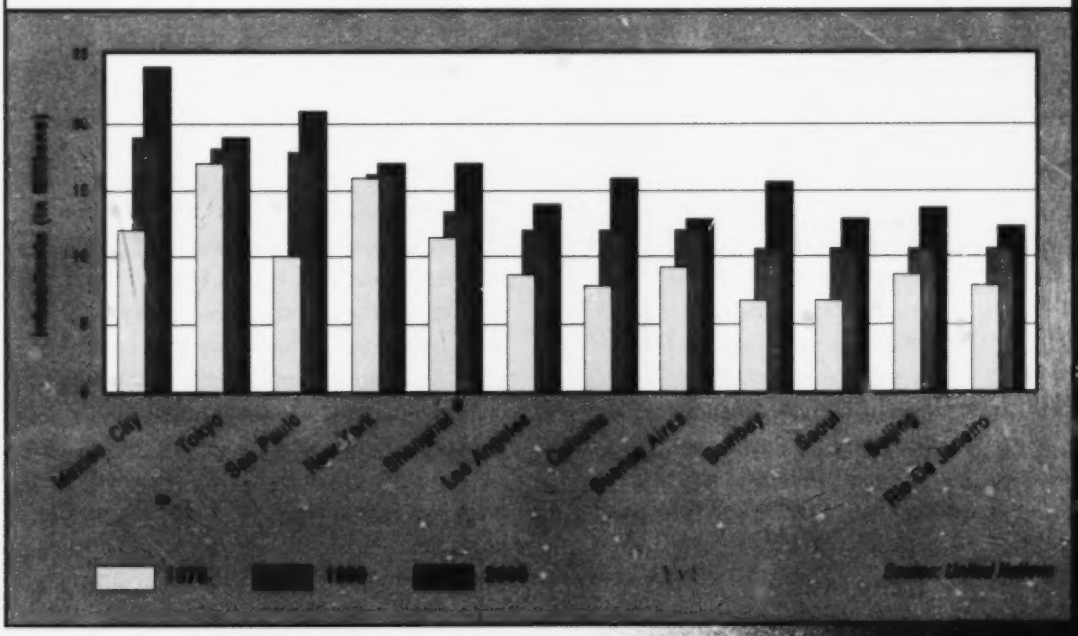
into productive investment, and they do not compensate for the loss of young, educated people. Since most migrants belong to the younger and better educated parts of the population, sending countries are losing vast numbers of their most productive human resources.

Migration can be a positive choice for some individuals. But mass movements of people — either internally or across borders — indicate a crisis situation that makes leaving home a necessity, not a choice. Alleviating such desperate conditions calls for combined urban and rural development strategies. Only through long-term investments in health, education, employment and environmental protection will countries create the living conditions that make migration one option among many.

By the end of the century, over half the world's population will live in cities.

World's largest Urban Agglomerations

(10 Million or more inhabitants in 1990)



Information, Education and Communication: Creating Awareness

Information, education and communication programmes provide the knowledge and motivation to make critical choices affecting population growth and economic and social development.

The information component helps promote understanding and awareness of population issues and how they are addressed by governments and individuals. Information may include the effect of changes in population growth and distribution on national and personal life; the demographic and health benefits of family planning; and the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

The mass media — newspapers, film, television and radio — are prime carriers of population information, but in developing countries they are frequently supplemented by traditional media and local specialties — puppet shows, theatre performances, and music or dance presentations. These familiar media have presented news and views on current events for generations, and are known and trusted by their audiences. Presentations are frequently the start of debate and discussion on issues of the day.

For narrower, more specialized audiences, the mass media are supplemented by specialized journals and other networks. Exchange of information among the growing number of national and international population organizations, for example, has greatly increased in recent years with the advent of inexpensive and accessible desk-top publishing. One of the most significant recent developments is the spread of regional, sub-regional and international information networks. These include the Association for Population/Family Planning Libraries and Information Centers, the United Nations Population Information Network, regional networks such as POPIN-Africa and Asia/Pacific POPIN, and POPLINE, the population database distributed by the Johns Hopkins University's Population Information Program. Population communication is designed to create more awareness, acceptance and use of family planning services. Both the medium and the message should be adapted to social and cultural realities.

The choice of medium is important. With an estimated 1.9 billion radios in the world, roughly one for every three people, and growing numbers of TVs and VCRs, electronic media can be very successful. Radio and television soap operas featuring family planning, popular songs on population themes and phone-in question and answer sessions have all made an impact in different countries. Such means can be very important in areas of low literacy or where newspapers do not circulate widely. A Mexican TV soap opera series is credited with bringing thousands to family planning clinics; in Nigeria, family planning themes were integrated into a TV drama series; in Egypt, TV mini-dramas provided family planning information; in Turkey, a special family planning series on TV was watched by 55 per cent of all adult viewers.

Targeting audiences is also crucial. Programmes designed for teenagers, for example, can help to address serious problems associated with early pregnancies. In many countries it is particularly important to change the attitudes of men towards the responsibilities of parenthood.

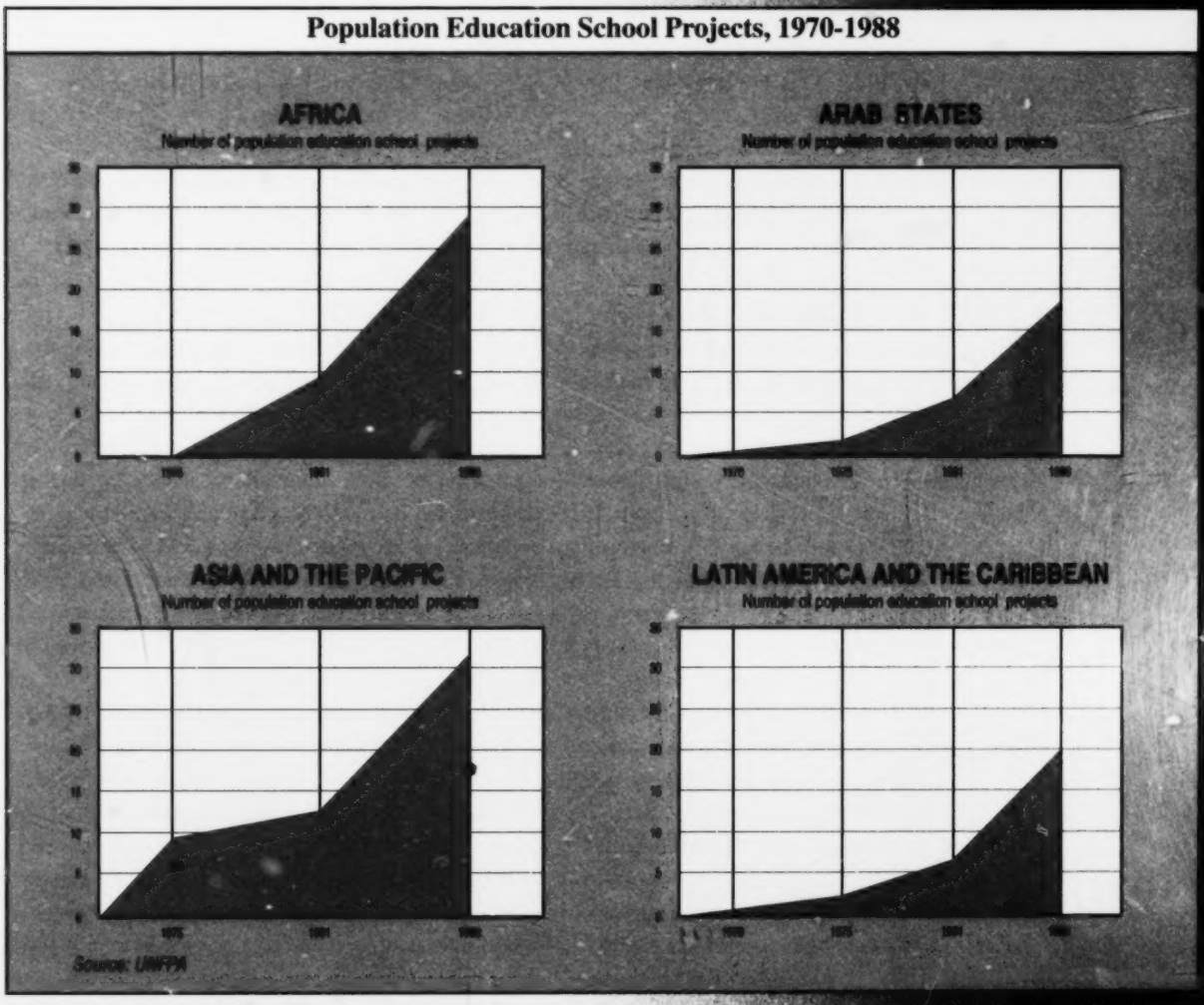
Population education in schools began to win acceptance in developing countries in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Today it is available in over 80 countries in the developing world. Population education is incorporated into the curriculum of subjects such as geography, social studies and biology. Its aims vary from country to country, but are generally designed to introduce understanding and a sense of responsibility regarding population issues.

Increasingly population is included at the primary school level in the developing world since enrolment there is twice that of secondary schools. Most programmes, however, are currently directed at secondary schools.

Population education does not end with schooling. It continues in literacy and vocational classes, in worker educational projects and in extension programmes in health, nutrition and agriculture.

Both the medium and the message should be adapted to social and cultural realities.

Population Education School Projects, 1970-1988


AFRICA
Number of population education school projects
ARAB STATES
Number of population education school projects
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Number of population education school projects
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Number of population education school projects
Source: UNFPA

Population Data: Overcoming the Numbers Barrier

A data barrier hampers the efforts of population and development planners in many countries.

Most countries in the developing world still lack reliable statistics on births and deaths. Many developing countries have insufficient data to support integration of population policy and development planning. In many parts of the world, there is a shortage of information on the effects of population on the environment and resources.

In addition, critical data on woman are lacking in many countries. Even basic social and economic statistics are not always broken down by gender. And rarely is information collected that relates to the specific situation of woman, such as reproductive health issues. Almost everywhere, infant mortality is more likely to be registred than maternal mortality. Woman even disappear from civil registration records because the birth of a girl may not be reported. Such scarcity of data impedes efforts to channel population and development investments to girls and women.

In the 1970s the United Nations-sponsored Africa Census Programme funded censuses in 21 newly-independent countries which had never had a census. In some nations today, census tabulations are produced years after the count has been taken; findings may not be fully analyzed or widely disseminated.

Unreliable or obsolete data or information which are not presented in a usable form prevent development planners from fully assessing the interaction between population and development.

Training is needed for the correct use of demographic data. Too often the data are merely appended to economic analyses or development proposals, rather than integrated into findings and recommendations, sharply reducing their value, and in the case of development projects, their chances of success.

Inadequate population information and statistics can also affect solutions to environmental problems. Data and analysis of the economic and social impact of ecological change are needed to convince policy makers of the need for action. In many countries little information is available on the extent of environment and population problems.

Developing countries need more of today's sophisticated equipment, more computer-trained staff for data processing, and some means of overcoming problems of power interruptions and equipment maintenance.

"Vital statistics on births, deaths and marriages, school enrolments and drop-outs, employment and residence, readily available in developed countries, are in short supply in many developing countries because civil registration systems do not exist or are incomplete. Improved coverage of birth and death registration statistics could be achieved by linking registration with primary health care reporting systems.

The gathering of data is often conducted on an ad hoc basis. Whether they are censuses, vital registration systems or sample surveys, data collection needs to be incorporated into permanent statistical systems.

The World Fertility Survey, which is one of the bases for preparing population projections, evaluating family planning programmes and assessing overall demographic and social change, had by 1984 enlisted the participation of only 40 developing and 21 developed countries. The Demographic and Health Survey project, begun in 1984, has further expanded the scope of fertility rate and contraceptive prevalence rate coverage in the developing world, notably in Africa and Latin America. So far, surveys in 29 countries have been completed.

In many developing countries, lack of reliable demographic information and analysis has prevented adequate policy responses to development needs. This is particularly true of such population groups as the urban poor, youth, the elderly, nomadic populations and minorities. It is also hard to find accurate information on rural and sparsely-populated areas, or information on specific regions or localities. Too heavy a reliance on national data masks local issues

and the need for policies directed to them. The Amsterdam Forum declared in November 1989 that among the "critical basic activities" needed to attain population goals is "an increase in efforts to collect, analyze, disseminate and use data in population policy and programme planning."

During the period 1969-1991, UNFPA assistance in basic data collection totalled $266.7 million. UNFPA assistance helps to make essential population data available for use in effective promotion of awareness and formulation of population policies and programmes, More importantly, it also serves to strengthen national capacity and self-reliance in most developing countries.

Most countries in the developing world still lack reliable statistics on births and deaths.

Women count – but are not counted

Much of the work that women do is "invisible" in national accounting and censuses, despite its obvious productive and social worth. The reason is that women are heavily involved in small-scale agriculture, the informal sector and household activities – areas where data are notoriously deficient.

But there is another aspect. Women's work, especially their household work, often is unpaid and therefore unaccounted for – processing food, carrying water, collecting fuel, growing subsistence crops and providing child care. For example, women in Nepalese villages contribute 22 per cent to household money incomes, but when non-marketed subsistence production is included, their contribution rises to 53 per cent. It is estimated that unpaid household work by women, if properly evaluated, would add a third to global production.

Even when women are remunerated for their work, their contribution is often undervalued. In formal employment, women earn significantly less than men in every country having data. In the informal sector, where most women work, their earnings at times reach only a third (Malaysia) to a half (Latin America) of those of men.

Do women remain invisible in statistics because little value is attached to what they do? Apparently, yes.

Women have shouldered a large part of the adjustment burden of developing countries in the 1980s. To make up for lost family income, they have increased production for home consumption, worked longer hours, slept less and often eaten less – substantial costs of structural adjustment that have gone largely unrecorded.

The low value attached to women's work requires a fundamental remedy: if women's work were more fully accounted for, it would become clear how much women count in development. To do that requires much better gender-specific data on development. There is a need to redesign national censuses, particularly agricultural surveys.

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 1993

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